

U. S. S. ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION

Box CV-6

New York 46, New York

*Am Mail
Special for
Adm Hamilton*

Dear Enterprise "Shipmate:"

First, I want to thank you for the enthusiasm, support, and encouragement you have so willingly contributed to the campaign to save the "Big E" for future generations of Americans as an educational Navy Memorial Museum in our Nation's Capital at Washington, D. C.

Next, I am sure you will want to join me and all the other members of the Enterprise Association in expressing our sincere thanks to our distinguished leader, Fleet Admiral Wm. F. Halsey, U.S. Navy (Retired) for his most valuable support of our campaign.

Shortly after the first of the year, acting on his doctor's advice to conserve his energies, Admiral Halsey found it necessary to curtail or withdraw from many of his activities, among them his active leadership and sponsorship of the Enterprise drive.

Admiral Halsey contributed perhaps more than any other single individual to the Enterprise Campaign, being instrumental in obtaining unanimous passage of Congressional legislation, approved by the President authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to transfer the USS ENTERPRISE to the ENTERPRISE Association subject to these conditions, in brief:

- (1) That the Enterprise Association raise sufficient funds to satisfy the Secretary of the Navy of their ability to establish the aircraft carrier as a memorial in a suitable manner at no expense to the Government,
- (2) That the site chosen for the memorial be mutually agreeable to the Secretary of the Navy, the Department of the Interior, and various other Government agencies in Washington who are interested in such projects,
- (3) That the memorial would be maintained on a non-profit basis with entrance fees, et cetera, to be approved by the Secretary of the Navy, and
- (4) That the conditions set forth by the bill be met within six months after passage, or the Secretary of the Navy may dispose of the ship as provided by law. (Note: The Bill, Senate Joint Resolution No. 96, was signed by the President on 29 August 1957, thus establishing 1 March 1958 as the deadline.)

Progress was made on each of the provisions of the Bill, but, unfortunately, in the matter of raising funds, progress was not either sufficient, or sufficiently encouraging, to insure a successful financial showing by the deadline of 1 March 1958. (Estimated money required, at least \$1,000,000)

After carefully and realistically examining the financial outlook at an executive planning conference of the Enterprise Association, we reluctantly determined that we must terminate the drive to save the whole ship. Then, we turned our attention to alternate plans for a suitable and fitting memorial to the "Big E" and perpetuating the fighting spirit she represents.

First, we met with the Secretary of the Navy in Washington and were assured that the first nuclear-powered carrier would be named the "U. S. S. ENTERPRISE," thus perpetuating the name of this gallant ship.

Secondly, we met with representatives of the beautiful new Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, now under construction at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, and are arranging to have a part of the bridge and/or mast of the "Big E" transported to Annapolis and incorporated into the overall design by the stadium architects. Funds contributed to date are being audited and these, less essential administration expenses, are being devoted to this less costly type of memorial.

At the Annapolis location, hundreds of thousands of yearly visitors will have an opportunity to pay homage to the American fighting spirit represented by the "Big E" memorial. We understand that the mast will be the only mast at the stadium to fly the American flag, in itself a fitting tribute to the ENTERPRISE.

We hope you will join the many thousands of your fellow Americans who have supported the Enterprise Campaign and concur in our selection of this alternate plan which we feel will result in a most suitable and worthy memorial to a great ship.

Cordially,

BILL RUBIN,
President,
U. S. S. ENTERPRISE Association